

South Carolina Public Service Commission, additional issues in opposition to Duke energy rate hike.
From William Thompson -

Thank you for your prompt reply. I may be wrong about the public service commission being a rubber stamp for Duke Energy as rates increase. I do have a couple of suggestions to add to my complaint that Duke does not need to raise their rates. Please do not reply to my postal letter I sent to you just in case my email was not effective in getting my complaint filed. I am handicapped and email is really my only way of communicating. I appreciate so much your having an email address posted, even though, most departments of government do not, or if they do, it is a page to fill out like a questionnaire. I believe the following 6 issues I list below are important additions to my original letter of opposition dated March 12.

1 – Duke Energy post their application for rate increase calling it an ‘adjustment’ of the rate and that is deceptive. Adjustment can go up or down, but this is a rate increase that only goes up and not down. Furthermore, they show smiling faces on their posting on the Internet and that is also deceptive. No one in their right mind would be smiling when they read it if they understand what Duke is saying. In fact, they would have a very negative expression on their face if they are the majority of the people. I request they change that posting and state clearly that it is a rate increase and not show smiling faces.

2– Duke has the audacity to ask for a rate increase and a very large one at that after they have acquired Piedmont Natural Gas and that is repulsive. Stating from memory, I believe it was \$4 billion. How could they not be making excessive profits if they can afford to acquire another company at that price, so now the public can look forward to regular increases from Piedmont Gas, instead of their known deductions.

3– How can Duke talk about clean energy when they just paid a 100 million fine for polluting the rivers?

4–Solar energy is the ultimate free energy, why has Duke Energy not ventured into solar electric energy?

5–It is customary for expanding businesses to borrow money from the banks to pay for it and not put the burden on the backs of their customers. If private business practiced this shift, they would be out. Assuming Duke is a public held company, they are at the same time, a corporate monopoly enterprise.

6 - I am handicapped with a hearing difficulty and I do not use the telephone to communicate. I do use email and that works really well for me and is very well accepted by the public, yet Duke in their posting on the Internet their demand for a rate increase do not list an email address to communicate with them. They should know some people need to communicate by text messages and it would appear to me that they deliberately make it hard for the public to communicate with them. My first wish is that Duke will withdraw their application for a rate increase because I believe they do not need it. I speak not just for myself but as advocating for those that cannot get their message across to object to their rate increase. I speak for the unknown, the silent majority of Duke customers I have never met, yet I feel their pain, and I feel led to speak my mind. I speak from my heart and I do not need to be paid to speak the truth. Using the US mail is very difficult for me both going on coming, and this is why I request to use email.

RECEIVED
MAR 18 2019
PSC SC
MAIL / DMS

Latimer, Becky

From: Latimer, Becky
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 3:21 PM
To: 'William Thompson'
Subject: RE: Regarding Duke Energy rate increase - Additional information

Thank you for the additional Information Mr. Thompson will add it to your file with us.

From: William Thompson
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 2:43 PM
To: Latimer, Becky <Becky.Latimer@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: Re: Regarding Duke Energy rate increase - Additional information

From: Latimer, Becky <Becky.Latimer@psc.sc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4:13 PM
To: William Thompson
Subject: RE: Regarding Duke Energy rate increase

Dear Mr. William T. Thompson,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at www.psc.sc.gov.

- Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

You can follow this Docket and other daily filings made at the Commission by subscribing to the Commission's Email Subscriptions at this link: <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Email>; or you can follow the individual Docket at the link listed below:

Docket No. 2018-319-E - Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs and Request for an Accounting Order - <https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/116872>

If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Becky Latimer
Clerks Office/Administrative Coordinator

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
803-896-5100
Sign up for Meeting Agenda Alerts: Text PSCAGENDAS to 39492

From: William Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 11:21 AM
To: PSC_Contact <Contact@psc.sc.gov>
Subject: Regarding Duke Energy rate increase

To the South Carolina Public Service Commission,

March 12, 2019

101 Executive Center Dr, Suite 100, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 contact@psc.sc.gov 803-896-5100

Regarding, my objection to Duke Energy's request for a 12% increase in electric power rates.

I am opposed to Duke Power Energy raising electric rates because it is a tax on the poorest of people, including the sick, the helpless and the unemployed. Duke constantly asked for rate increases and they have made so much money they have bought out Piedmont Natural Gas for billions of dollars. Besides polluting rivers with coal ash, Duke Power got a rate increase to help build the Oconee Nuclear Plant 50 years ago saying they were spending \$1 million per day to build the plant that would cut power rates. Where is Duke Power Energy now that they have never cut rates on their customers, just raised them. Why do we need to pay a public service commission in this state to stamp approval on every Duke rate increase Duke presents. We could install robots to do that and there must be a reason that the Public Service Commission is not more sensitive to the economic conditions of the people of the state that are suffering. I must ask Duke energy to withdraw their request and honor their promise to cut rates we paid 50 years ago to build the Oconee Nuclear Plant so we would have lower electric power rates.

I happen to hear this on TV that I seldom watch anymore. It was announcing a hearing in Spartanburg. For some reason the local news media altogether seem to favor corporate extravagance at the People's expense. No one on Social Security can afford the 12% increase. After a number of years of no increase in Social Security benefits, only this year they raised it about 2%. What a pity they did not raise it 12%. The \$16 per month increase as reported on television for the average home bill sounds so innocent. But, for people who have \$1,000 per month power bill, that calculates \$260 per month increase and that is exorbitant. There are 2 groups of people that it does not matter with, the homeless, that no longer have a meter and the well to do wherein it does not make any difference how much they pay. Also the deceased no longer need Duke's power. I must say conscientiously that Duke's request is a disgrace. Duke energy should be ashamed of their heavy handedness and constant request for more money.

Duke Energy is taking full advantage of the capitalistic system that brings the most suffering to people. I will go so far to say that with this greed and arrogance in the utility that people must all have, needs to be nationalized or taken over by the state and it should not be allowed to continue in free enterprise. No one should profit on people suffering and always under strain to pay the bills before the power is cut off. Even Piedmont natural gas cut their rates at one point when gas was so abundant, but what about Duke Power after building the Oconee nuclear plant producing electricity so much cheaper. According to their own words, they never ever cut the rates as they lead the public to believe they would do in the end. I feel compelled to write on behalf of those people who are hurting to maintain a home with power

to see to read and to stay warm and cool, especially with current extreme weather conditions we are seeing. I wish to enter a request with the South Carolina public service commission to cut Duke Energy's rates by 50%. I honestly believe this is justified in light of all of their eccentric power rate increases. Another issue is about 2 years ago, Duke had someone to spray Roundup on all the small trees poisoning the ground. Duke moved out of the state years ago, making it difficult to communicate with or pay a bill.

I request you all stop and think all these things over and have some pity on the people that are suffering to pay the power bill and buy food to live on. At the same time. The increase may cause some people to need to get a 3rd job and mothers to leave their children unattended at times to pay and all of this causes major disruptions of normal living. As we are due. There may be no opposition on the Public Service Commission, but I believe if the true synthesis is known of the community. There is a lot of opposition. I suggest a group of volunteers, maybe students be sent to homes to collect the opposition from the average individual that could never attend a public hearing not being able to express their opposition or their inability to pay a rate increase while they are struggling to pay the regular rate. The best way I can think of is to mail a questionnaire to each Duke customer asking about any rate increase.

Homeless people are invisible to public hearings and increase in rates makes it harder for them to ever recover where they would be a customer of Duke, Energy once again. We must consider the homeless. The growing homeless problem in this country is fueled by corporate greed and that is shameful for us.

Some time ago we were having trouble with sudden interruptions of power that was caused from a cross tie made of aluminum that fries a squirrel when they are sitting on it and touch the power line. Finally, Duke came out and replaced it with the old-fashioned wood type crossmember to carry the lines. Unfortunately, recently we have had a reoccurrence of the aluminum cross tie and that may be causing problems. I've heard of power outage in other states caused by squirrels, it should be corrected.

Is Duke, Energy doing their job? No. According to the following website, they pleaded guilty to dumping coal ash in the river paying a fine of \$102 million and now they want us, we the people, to pay their fine through higher utility rates. Duke has a monopoly on electric power and now on natural gas in the state.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/duke-energy-fined-102-million-in-coal-ash-spill/>

I urge the public service commission to deny Duke Energy any increase and consider lowering their rate.

Sincerely – William Thomas Thompson,

